

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ELENI VLACHOU EDITORIAL: GREEK POLITICAL EVOLUTION

1. KATHIMERINI EDITOR AND PUBLISHER ELENI VLACHOU PUBLISHED PERCEPTIVE EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 22 WHICH LAMENTED HEIRS OF GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS SOPHICLES VENIZELOS AND KING PAUL HAD NOT CARRIED FORWARD THEIR ATTRIBUTES. VENIZELOS WITH HIS HIGH INTELLIGENCE WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT OF CONDITIONS WHICH LED TO 1967 MILITARY TAKEOVER BUT WOULD HAVE INTERVENED TO PREVENT THE ANIMOSITY WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AS LED BY GEORGE PAPANDREOU AND THE YOUNG KING. HAD KING PAUL LIVED THE JUNTA WOULD NOT HAVE DARED TO SEIZE POWER.

2. RECALLING OTHER NATIONAL LEADERS OF STATURE SUCH AS TSALDARIS, KONDYLIS AND DEMERTZIS, VLACHOU NOTED THEIR DEATHS LED UP TO METAXAS DICTATORSHIP IN THE LATE 1930'S. MOVING TO THE CONTEMPORARY SCENE, EDITORIAL UNDERSCORED THAT NO "ORGANIZED" POLITICAL PARTIES EXIST IN GREECE; ONLY ASSOCIATIONS AND MEN. MRS. VLACHOU RECALLED THAT IN HER YOUTH POLITICAL FORCES WERE DIVIDED BETWEEN THOSE WHO SUPPORTED VENIZELOS AND THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE MONARCHY AND THAT ALMOST NO ONE WAS INTERESTED IN POLITICAL PROGRAMS, POLICIES OR CONFRONTING SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

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3. MRS. VLACHOU URGED PRESENT NEED FOR GREEKS TO REACH

MATURITY. "CARAMANLIS IS AN EXCELLENT NAME AND HERE A WORTHY VEHICLE. NOTHING MORE IS REQUIRED AT THE POLLS ... FOR THE GREEK VOTER WHO WILL VOTE TO GIVE THE NATIONAL MANDATE TO THE ONE WHO IS RECOGNIZED AS THE LEADER AND THUS ENSURE THE VICTORY OF CARAMANLIS." EDITORIAL SYMPATHIZED WITH POLITICIANS WHO AGONIZED FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS, AND WHO, NOW CONFRONTED WITH IMMINENT ELECTIONS WITH FOREGONE CONCLUSION, ARE NO LONGER IN HASTE. VLACHOU CONCLUDED WITH FRIENDLY ADVICE TO OPPOSITION POLITICIANS TO PLAY FIRST ROUND BY GRANTING VICTORY TO CARAMANLIS BECAUSE IN SECOND AND THIRD ROUNDS THEY CAN ADVANCE THEIR POSITIONS THROUGH PARTIES OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL TENDENCIES. "LET ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AT SOME FUTURE TIME INFORM US OF THEIR PURPOSES, PLANS, ALIGNMENTS AND ORIENTATION. IN THIS MANNER THEY WILL ENABLE US WHEN WE ARE QUERIED WHY WE VOTE THE WAY WE DO TO ANSWER SIMPLY "BECAUSE IT IS SO."

4. MRS. VLACHOU'S SUMMING UP OF PRESENT POLITICAL MOOD IN RELATION TO GREEK HISTORY OF PAST FIFTY YEARS SEEMS ACCURATELY TO REFLECT VIEWS OF NUMBER OF POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED GREEKS ABOUT PROSPECTIVE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ENVISAGED UNDER LEADERSHIP OF CARAMANLIS. HER COUNSEL TO OPPOSITION POLITICIANS TO ACCEPT ELECTION RESULTS AS FOREGONE CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, APPEARS UNLIKELY TO BE HEEDED BROADLY. ALREADY CU MAVERICK JOHN ZIGDIS, MIRRORING FRUSTRATION OF THOSE NOT INCLUDED ON CARAMANLIS BANDWAGON, CRITICIZED ELECTORAL LAW FAVORING LARGE PARTIES AND DESCRIBED "NEO-CAESARISM" OF CARAMANLIS ADMINISTRATION IN DECREESING ELECTORAL LAW SERVING CARAMANLIS' POLITICAL INTERESTS IN DISREGARD OF INTERESTS OF NATION AS A WHOLE. ZIGDIS AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT SINCE NEW ELECTORAL LAW IS "CRIME AGAINST NATION", GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IS SOLUTION. HE CONCLUDED "THIS IS OUR DUTY AND WE MUST ACT TODAY SINCE TOMORROW WE SHALL PROBABLY BE FACED WITH IRREVOCABLE FAIT ACCOMPLI." PRESS REPORTED THAT ZIGDIS SPOKE IN TERMS OF "WE OF CENTER UNION" WHICH MISCONSTRUES REALITY THAT ONLY GEORGE MAVROS AS CU CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AUTHORITATIVELY FOR PARTY WHILE ZIGDIS HAS SUPPORT FROM ONLY TWO CU EX-DEPUTIES.

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